

The swelling often gave distress and in two instances the treatment appeared to be responsible for an almost fatal hemorrhage, and these unquestionably outweighed the very questionable advantages claimed. Weil discusses particularly two of the cases published by Beebe in which all the improvement observed is, he suspects, due to the simultaneous Roentgen-ray treatment, which often gives brilliant, if temporary, results. He deprecates the publicity used as leading to hopes that cannot be realized, causing useless expense and long and painful journeys to receive treatment. His own personal belief, based on observation, is that autolysin treatment is useless and liable to do damage rather than good. The article is illustrated.

#### FULL-TIME HEALTH OFFICERS.

The necessity of health officers giving their full time to their official functions is pointed out by J. W. Kerr, Washington, D. C. (*Journal A. M. A.*, Nov. 6, 1915). In this country he says the health service has been a plant of slow growth, stimulated mainly by epidemics. The funds appropriated have been too inadequate and the conditions all over the land have been bad. In Kansas, for instance, there were no full-time health officers prior to the present year, and in Illinois, with the exception of the city of Chicago and La Salle, Peru and Oglesby, which have joined forces, there are, so far as reported, no full-time health officers at present, and only 106 paid health officers in the state, some of these receiving only \$5 a year. While local health administration should be the strongest defense against disease, it is in reality the weakest in our national resources. The federal or state governments cannot be expected to act locally except in special emergencies and normally should only exercise advisory and supervisory control as regards local matters. Authority has been dissipated and intrusted to separate boards and commissions to the damage of public health in general. It would be advisable to have more joint action between communities, several jurisdictions combining to support health officers that can give all their time, and only this will give us efficient local health administration. In Germany, he says, he found by inquiry that the imperial government, while authorized to act, had found it unnecessary because of the efficiency of the local health authorities. Recent legislation in several states is reviewed by Kerr and some progress has been made toward having efficient local health boards, especially in certain states, such as North Carolina and Massachusetts and in proposed legislation in others. Such legislation should be encouraged.

#### THE COMMANDMENTS GOVERNING THE RELATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WITH THE DOCTOR.

The medical society of Frankfurt has elaborated ten commandments or rules to govern the relations of the public to the doctor. These rules have been printed and the doctors are asked to distribute them among their patients and to post them in their waiting rooms. The rules are as follows:

1. Do not call the doctor unnecessarily for trivial illness, and do not wait too long in the case of serious illness or until the illness has reached such a stage of severity that it is imperative to call the doctor. Much valuable time may be lost by delay in securing medical assistance.
2. If your condition permits, consult the doctor during his office hours and do not ask him to come to you. Some examinations can be made only in the doctor's office, where certain instruments which cannot easily be transported are kept.
3. If you have decided that you will call the doctor, inform him to that effect before he leaves

his home to make his calls; that is, before 9 o'clock in the morning. The doctor must lay his plans for the day's work ahead of time, and if you wish to assure yourself of an early visit, send in an early call.

4. Do not ask the doctor to call at a certain hour, but leave the time for making a visit to him, if your case is not urgent or not an emergency case which demands an immediate response to your call. The doctor is never master of his time, and it is very difficult for him to make a visit at a certain time. The business man should not expect his doctor to time his call at the noon hour when the former can leave his business and be at home. If he cannot consult the doctor during office hours, he should go home and remain there until the doctor can come to see him.

5. Do not ask the doctor to come immediately when it is not necessary. Such a visit, being an emergency visit, is combined with great inconvenience and loss of much time, as it interferes with other work. At the same time, other patients who should be visited first are slighted thereby.

6. Never call the doctor at night except in an emergency case. The doctor is human, and like every other man must have his rest. A tired, worried and overworked doctor, one who is frequently disturbed in his sleep, naturally cannot render such efficient service to his patient as he could if his rest were not broken so much.

7. On Sunday the doctor should be allowed to rest. No demand should be made on his time, except when his services are absolutely needed.

8. If a doctor is needed to answer an emergency call, please do not notify more than one man at the same time. If, in the confusion of the moment, more than one doctor has been called, countermand multiple calls as soon as possible.

9. When the doctor is expected, please have everything ready for him so that time will not be lost. Above all things, do not expect the doctor to wait to see you, but have your room and yourself in readiness to receive him. Have water, soap and towel in readiness for him, likewise pen and ink and anything else that might be needed by him, to avoid delay.

10. Do not detain the doctor unnecessarily during his office hours. Other patients are waiting to see him, each in his turn, and lost time may be a valuable item for them. Furthermore, other patients are awaiting the doctor at their homes. Female patients should be prepared to submit to any examination with as little loss of time as possible, and be so dressed that they can leave the office quickly and without the assistance of a maid.—*Journal A. M. A.*

#### THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The State Board of Health met at the office of the Board in Sacramento on November 6. The members present were Dr. George E. Ebright, President; Dr. Fred F. Gundrum, Vice-President; Dr. Edward F. Glaser, Dr. Adelaide Brown, Dr. Robert A. Peers, and Dr. Wilbur A. Sawyer, Secretary.

On account of the marked increase in the work of the Bureau of the Hygienic Laboratory and the variety of its functions, the name of the Bureau was officially changed to the more correctly descriptive title, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, by the following resolution:

Resolved, That the State Hygienic Laboratory may be designated, in the public and private communications of the Board, as the Bureau of Communicable Diseases.

The position of Director of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, formerly known as the Bureau of the Hygienic Laboratory, was filled by the ap-